

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

NETHERCUTT, George (Republican)
Representative, 5th District, Washington
Elected 1994 to the 104th Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: Spokane, Washington - 7 October 1944

Home: Spokane, Washington

Marital status: Married (Mary Beth) - 2 children

Religion: Presbyterian

Education: Washington State U, B.A., 1967; Gonzaga, J.D., 1971

Military: None

Profession: Lawyer; congressional aide

Political: Staff counsel to Sen Stevens (R-AK), 1972-76; Chmn, Spokane County GOP Cmte, 1990-94. Defeated US House Speaker Thomas Foley (D) in the 1994 election, the first Speaker voted out of office since 1860. Reelected in 2000 with 56% of the vote and in 2002 with 62%.

Rep Nethercutt is a conservative with a conciliatory nature. Describes himself as a “work horse” rather than a “show horse.” Supports a balanced-budget amendment and welfare reform. Despite pledging in 1994 that he would limit his own length of service to six years, reneged on that pledge and decided to seek reelection in 2000.

In the 104th Congress called for a revision of the Bottom-Up Review (BUR) to provide more flexibility in defense policy making. Described modernization as the top priority for defense. Supported quick deployment of a national missile defense system, depot maintenance privatization, and a reduction in cross-service redundancies. In the 105th Congress offered a successful amdt to the FY98 VA-HUD approps directing the VA to create a computer system for monitoring the effectiveness of treatment of Gulf War veterans. Expressed concern that US missile technology was transferred to the Chinese as a result of commercial US satellite launch agreements with the Chinese.

In the 106th Congress, called for a relaxation of the US food and medicine embargo of Cuba; urged the Air Force to commit seriously to KC-135 reengining; sponsored legislation to eliminate the co-payment requirement for TRICARE Prime; and suggested that US forces were over committed since Kosovo. Expressed support for two Fairchild AFB milcon projects included in the subcommittee markup for the FY01 milcon appropriations, including a \$5.8M training facility associated with the AF Survival School and \$2M for a runway centerline lighting system. (2May00, Press release)

In the 107th Congress, requested information from the Air Force, Navy, and Army about their academies admitting cadets who fall below academic minimums. Expressed his concern that these academic waivers are eroding the quality of officers being produced. Supported the Boeing Tanker lease. Met with Cuban President Castro to discuss improving US-Cuban trade relations.

In the 108th Congress, introduced a measure to the Iraqi War Supplemental bill that would bar French, German, Russian and Syrian businesses from receiving US-funded contracts to help rebuild Iraq.

Additional: President, Spokane chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation (his daughter has the disease). Member, Airpower Caucus; National Security Caucus

AF Bases: Fairchild AFB; Fairchild Annex; Spokane IAP (ANG) Reserve Forces

COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS -- Subcs on Defense (VC); Agriculture; Interior
SCIENCE